

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. No claims are added, amended or canceled by this letter.

Applicants and Applicants representative gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of a phone conversation with Examiner Lee on March 30, 2007. During the conversation, Examiner Lee indicated that U.S. Patent Application 10/721,414 is in condition for allowance.

Further, the Examiner asserted that a terminal disclaimer should be filed in the present application to avoid a provisional double-patenting rejection with respect to claims in U.S. Patent Application 10/721,414. Accordingly, such a terminal disclaimer is filed herewith.

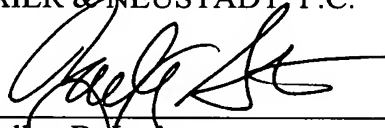
The filing of a terminal disclaimer to obviate a rejection based on non-statutory double patenting is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection. The "filing of a terminal disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting, and raises neither a presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection." *Quad Environmental Technologies Corp. v. Union Sanitary District*, 946 F.2d 870, 20 USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Accordingly, Applicants' filing of the attached disclaimer is provided for facilitating a timely resolution to prosecution only, and should not be interpreted as an admission as to the merits of the obviated rejection.

Application No. 10/721,497
Reply to Examiner on March 30, 2007

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this application pass to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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